



SOIL AND WATER *Resources*

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Pembroke Hill High School Wins Third Consecutive Missouri Envirothon

If you think a repeat is difficult, try a three-peat. For the third year in a row, Pembroke Hill High School took first place in the 2011 Missouri Envirothon. The 19-team competition took place April 13 at Lincoln University's Carver Farm in Jefferson City. Placing second at the event was Parkway North and third place went to Columbia FFA.

The top three teams from each of Missouri's seven regional competitions competed at the state event. Students competed at five different outdoor ecostations—aquatic ecology, forestry, soils and land use, wildlife and the 2011 current conservation issue, Salt and Fresh Water Estuaries. Test stations required the five-student teams to answer a variety of both hands-on and written natural resource questions. Each team also made an oral presentation to a panel of judges.

The winning team will travel to New Brunswick, Canada in late July to compete in the 2011 Canon Envirothon. Last year's state champs from Pembroke Hill placed 11th at the 2010 North American competition, competing against teams from 45 U.S. states and nine Canadian provinces.

To learn more about the Missouri Envirothon, including previous team rankings and regulations, visit the Missouri Association of Soil and Water Conservation District's Envirothon web site or contact the Soil and Water Conservation Program at 573-751-4932. Local soil and water conservation districts, in conjunction with cooperating agencies and educators, organize and run the local Envirothon events.



Members of the Pembroke Hill H.S. Envirothon team are: Front row: Foster Honeck, team captain Austin Caldwell, Jeffrey Rubel. Back row: Hosain Ghassemi, Riley Sloan.

State Audit of Soil and Water Conservation Program

In late February the Missouri State Auditor's office began a review to evaluate the monitoring and oversight of funding from the state's parks, soils and water sales tax. The state audit is expected to take approximately six months, during which the State Auditor's office may be contacting some districts for information. The audit will primarily cover operations during fiscal years 2009 and 2010. Audits of public funding are a standard procedure, helping state-funded programs improve operations and develop greater efficiency.



**Missouri Department
of Natural Resources**
Soil and Water Conservation Program



Introducing Department Director Sara Parker Pauley

In February, Sara Parker Pauley was confirmed as the new director of the Missouri Department of Natural Resources.

Pauley, a native of Columbia, is highly acquainted with Missouri's soil and water conservation efforts, and aware of its issues and challenges. "The health of Missouri's agricultural land and the quality of our waters go hand-in-hand," said Director Pauley. "Conservation practices employed by farmers, aided by district staff and our Soil and Water Conservation Program pay directly back to improve the quality of life for all Missourians."

Previous to her appointment, Pauley was a project manager for D.J. Case & Associates, a natural resources policy and communications firm. Pauley worked with federal and state agencies on policy development, marketing and environmental compliance.

In 2006-2007, she was Executive Vice President of PrimeGen Power USA, a start-up distributed power energy company based in Missouri. She was responsible for market research and development for electric utilities and the U.S. military.

From 2001-2005, Pauley was deputy director of the Department of Natural Resources, serving as its public liaison to diverse constituencies including the business community and environmental groups. She also oversaw the staff and budgets of the State Historic Preservation Office, Energy Center, Technical Assistance Office and Communications Office.

Pauley was chief of staff to former Missouri House Speaker Steve Gaw from 1996-1998, working as a liaison with legislators, lobbyists and other constituent groups.

Pauley received both her law degree and her bachelor's degree in journalism from the University of Missouri - Columbia, and did post-graduate studies in Australia as a Rotary Fellow. She was an instructor at the University of Missouri's School of Natural Resources, where she taught a course in natural resource policy and administration.

A lifelong conservationist and an avid hunter, Pauley has been an executive committee and board member of the Conservation Federation of Missouri. She was a member of the board of the American National Fish & Wildlife Museum, where she served as director of conservation programs from 2005-2006. She has published a number of articles on wildlife and natural resources management.

Soil and Water Districts Commission Elects Richard Fordyce as Chairman and Gary Vandiver as Vice Chairman

At its March 9 meeting, the Missouri Soil and Water Districts Commission unanimously reelected Richard Fordyce of Bethany to serve as chairman and elected Gary Vandiver of Richmond as its new vice chairman.

The Soil and Water Districts Commission establishes policy and general programs for the saving of Missouri's soil and water through local soil and water conservation districts, with the largest program being the cost-share program. The cost-share program provides financial incentives to install erosion-control and water quality practices to owners of privately held agricultural land.

Fordyce was first appointed to the commission in 2005 and has served as the commission chair since 2009. He raises soybeans, other row crops, hay and cattle on a farm in Harrison County. He currently serves on the United Soybean Board as one of three directors from Missouri. Fordyce is a member of the Harrison County Farm Bureau and the South Harrison School Board. Vice Chairman Gary Vandiver has served on the commission since 2009. Vandiver raises grain and cattle near Richmond.

The commission is made up of six farmers and four ex-officio members. The six farmer members are appointed by the governor of Missouri and confirmed by the Missouri Senate. Ex-officio members are the directors of the Department of Natural Resources, Department of Agriculture, Department of Conservation and the dean of the college of agriculture of the University of Missouri. The commission meets approximately seven times a year, mainly in Jefferson City.

The commission also currently includes: Charlie Ausfahl, Fulton; Kathryn Braden, Bradleyville; and Thomas Bradley, Sikeston.

FY11 Supplemental Cost-Share Allocation

Districts received a second FY11 Supplemental Cost-Share Allocation in January. The allocations were made possible because the Office of Administration Budget and Planning Office authorized the use of an additional \$2.5 million from the Soil and Water Districts Commission's \$4 million Cross-Year Mitigation Fund, bringing the total funding available for fiscal year 2011 cost-share to \$26.5 million. The additional funding allowed MoSWIMS to remain open longer, which in turn allowed districts the opportunity to continue entering contracts and meeting landowner needs.

Districts received letters in late January explaining procedures and formulas used to calculate the amount of this second allocation to the district. The amounts of the allocation to each district was based on the FY11 Needs Assessment submitted by each district, and also on the measured progress of obligated funds allocated to each district at the time the Office of Administration approved the additional spending authority.

Soil and Water Conservation Strategic Planning Workgroup Update

The Soil and Water Conservation Strategic Planning Workgroup met in Columbia on Feb. 23. The initial purpose of the group is to discuss issues related to district elections and help develop or review future planning activity for the program.

At this meeting of the group, representatives heard presentations from several organizations helping identify a wide variety of issues related to election processes and the candidacy and roles of board members. Future meetings will discuss and review these issues in greater detail.

The workgroup consists of representatives from the Soil and Water Districts Commission, state and federal natural resource and agriculture agencies, MASWCD (districts), MSWCDEA (employee's association), and other conservation partners.

Time Sheet/Accounting Program Implementation

The Soil and Water Districts Commission heard a staff report on the grant reporting (accounting) and the time reporting system at the March meeting. The commission was briefed on the benefits of both systems and the involvement of pilot districts during the testing periods. During the discussion, the commission received comments about the system from several of those attending the meeting. After discussion, the commission unanimously approved a motion to reaffirm the development and implementation of the time sheet system.

The commission first approved development of the new time sheet system in October 2009. Four pilot districts tested the system and provided input for its development.

At August 2010 area meetings a system overview was presented to supervisors and employees. Program staff presented a workshop at the November 2010 training conference highlighting system requirements and demonstrating how to input information. Employees from 64 districts participated in a series of 10 training webinars held from Feb. 17 to March 1. More training sessions will be scheduled so that all employees have an opportunity to attend.

Request for Comments on Grouping Watering Tank Components

In 2010, the Soil and Water Districts Commission implemented a policy of grouping cost-share seeding components, which has been well received. Grouping seeding components has lessened the burden for landowners, as well as district and program staff by providing standardized cost share payments statewide, simplifying administration at the local level, eliminating competition with federal funding, and providing accountability for taxpayers.

At the March meeting of the Soil and Water Districts Commission, the commission approved conducting a similar review of the advantages and disadvantages of grouping watering tank components. Program staff welcomes suggestions from districts during an open comment period through Friday, May 13, 2011.

Components for watering tanks include:

- Geotextile Fabric.
- Gravel.
- Rock.
- Concrete.
- Tanks (e.g., freeze proof, concrete, open, tire and portable tanks).

Submit your comments through email, fax or mail by the close of business on May 13, 2011. If you have questions, please contact Katy Holmer at the program by email at katy.holmer@dnr.mo.gov or by phone at 573-751-6777.

FY 2011 Cost-Share Allocations - April 20, 2011

Resource Concern	Allocated	Obligated	Obligated %	Paid	Paid %
Animal Waste Management	\$620,175.69	\$398,447.52	64 %	\$223,610.56	36 %
Grazing Management	\$4,279,602.31	\$3,227,461.83	75 %	\$1,296,524.04	30 %
Irrigation Management	\$1,154,836.64	\$925,725.73	80 %	\$445,488.93	39 %
Nutrient Management	\$493,481.50	\$459,921.60	93 %	\$331,905.00	67 %
Pest Management	\$204,721.81	\$177,038.75	86 %	\$164,325.75	80 %
Sensitive Areas	\$2,947,080.98	\$2,068,348.71	70 %	\$814,404.38	28 %
Sheet and Rill/Gully	\$19,406,484.07	\$17,450,436.67	90 %	\$11,421,132.93	59 %
Woodland Erosion	\$1,223,713.82	\$800,749.33	65 %	\$272,424.90	22 %
TOTAL	\$30,330,426.82	\$25,508,130.14	84 %	\$14,969,816.49	49 %

FY 2011 SALT Allocations

	Allocated	Obligated	Obligated %	Paid	Paid %
TOTAL	\$3,180,284.02	\$2,325,877.14	73 %	\$1,347,990.54	42%



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